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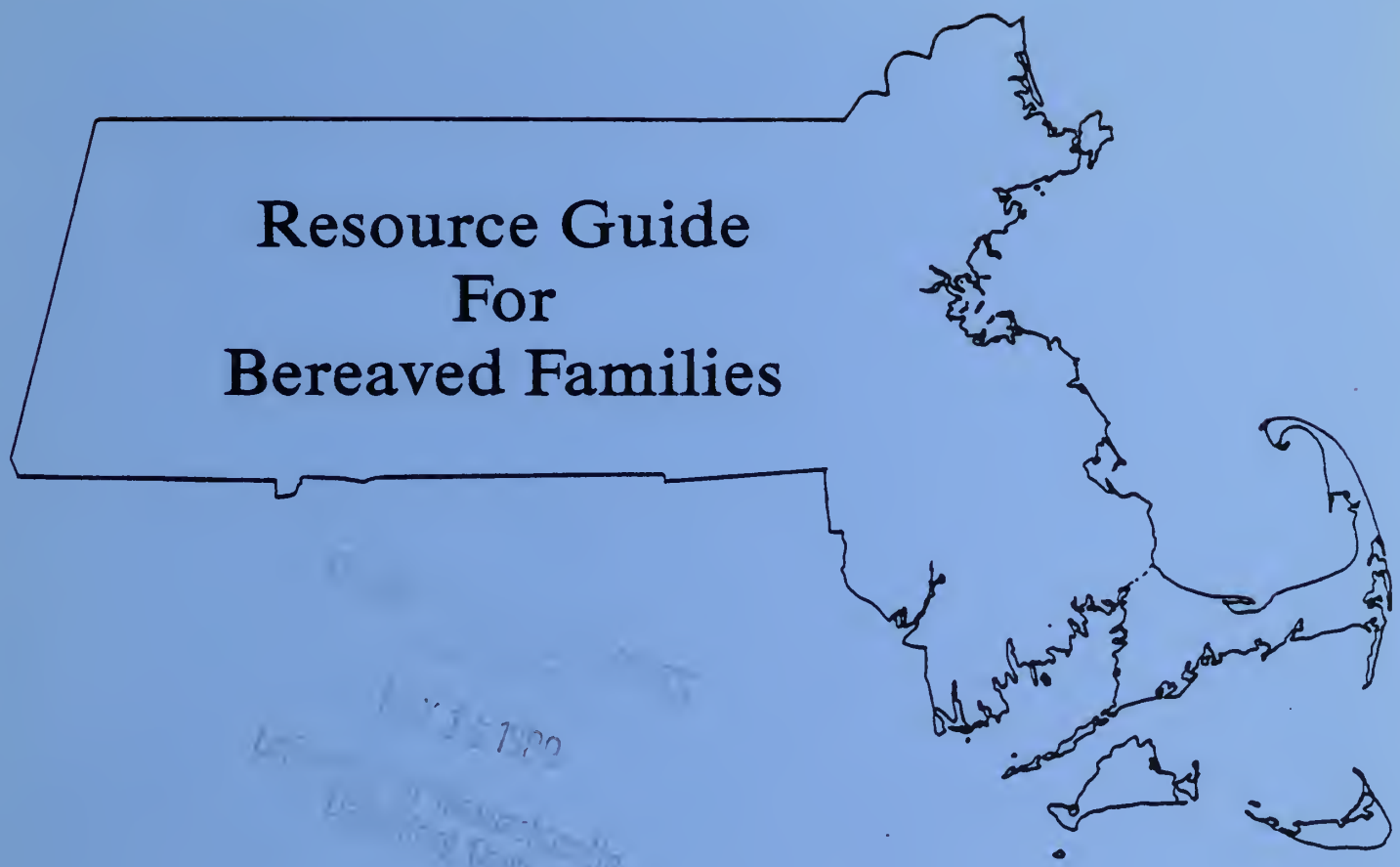
Resource Guide For Bereaved Families



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Division of Family Health Services

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Governor

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Secretary of Human Services

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.
Commissioner of Public Health

FOREWORD

While collecting data for a study on child deaths in Massachusetts, it became apparent to Department of Public Health staff that there is a need for information about programs and groups that assist families who have lost a child. The loss of any loved one is difficult to accept, but the death of a child is probably the most bewildering and painful experience. Often, families do not know where to turn for counseling or support to help them through the grief process. This Guide is intended for care providers who come in contact with bereaved families and who wish to assist these families in identifying community resources that meet their specific needs.

We would like to express special gratitude for the assistance of the United Way, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Office for Children and the Victim/Witness Program. These organizations were very helpful in identifying programs appropriate for the Resource Guide.

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Programs in the Resource Guide are organized according to GENERAL GRIEF SUPPORT AND COUNSELING and SPECIALIZED BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMS. The specialized programs are designed to meet specific needs, such as coping with the legal system after a drunk driving accident or dealing with the many questions raised when there is a sudden infant death. These programs are grouped under specific headings. An INDEX OF PROGRAMS BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION has also been included for reference.

No formal referral by professional care providers is necessary for any program in the Guide. Families may be given the names of agencies and are encouraged to contact them directly. The process for contacting each program is described in detail.

Users of this guide should be aware that information about programs, especially support groups, changes from time to time. Also, new programs are created periodically and may not be listed here. An INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SECTION has been included to allow for these changes. Agencies and services listed in this section are a source of up-to-date information about new programs and changes in existing programs.

Please note that all telephone numbers listed are area code 617 unless another area code is given. Additionally, all the programs in the Guide are non-denominational.

Finally, inclusion in the Guide does not constitute formal approval or endorsement of a program by the Department of Public Health.

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RESOURCE GUIDE FOR BEREAVED FAMILIES

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Grief Support and Counseling

AFFINITY/OMEGA

Somerville-Cambridge Catholic Charities
270 Washington Street
Somerville

(1) Affinity: A self-help peer support group offering a safe place to express sadness, anger, fear, loneliness, guilt or regret. Trained facilitators.

(2) Omega: Individual and telephone support available.

o One Spanish speaker.

Affiliations: Catholic Charities, United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 776-6369 or 625-1920 Ext. 51 for information. Calling hours 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Buses from MBTA Red and Green lines; street parking.

BEREAVED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Children's Aid and Family Society
69 Summer Street
Haverhill

Individual and/or family counseling provided by a social worker. May be long or short term, as needed.

Affiliations: Children's Aid and Family Society, United Way, Child Welfare League of America.

Who is Served: Children and families in the Haverhill, Newburyport area.

How to Contact: Call Carolyn Bonier, LICSW, 372-8516 for information and appointments. Calling hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Tuesday.

Fee: None for bereavement services, sliding scale fee for ongoing counseling. Some services covered by insurance.

Transportation: No convenient public transportation; free parking.

BEREAVED PARENT'S GROUP

Jewish Family and Children's Service
333 Nahanton Street
Newton Centre

Counseling group led by social workers from Jewish Family and Children's Service.

Affiliations: Jewish Family and Children's Service.

Who is Served: Parents, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 965-6890, JFCS Community Programs Department for information. Calling hours 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: Fee charged. Sliding scale/reduced rate available.

Transportation: No convenient public transportation; free parking.

BEREAVED PARENT'S PROGRAM

Children's Aid and Family Society
69 Summer Street
Haverhill

A self-help group offering support, understanding and comfort. Led by a social worker.

Affiliations: Children's Aid and Family Society, United Way.

Who is Served: Parents in the Haverhill, Newburyport Area.

How to Contact: Call Carolyn Bonier, LICSW at 372-8516 for information. Calling hours 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. 9:00 am-8:00 pm, Tuesday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No convenient public transportation; free parking.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Visiting Nurses Association
50 Lawrence Street
Framingham

A counseling group led by a nurse and a social worker. Three 10-week sessions are run each year.

- Spanish-speaking social worker on hospital staff is available for individual counseling.

Affiliations: Visiting Nurses Association Hospice Program, Framingham Union Hospital.

Who is Served: Spouses and other family members in the Framingham area.

How to Contact: Call Dorothy Hutchins, 879-7111, ext. 2734 for information. Calling hours 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: $25.00 donation to the Hospice Program of the Framingham Visiting Nurses Association is requested.

Transportation: Public transportation within Framingham, limited public transportation coming in or out of the city; street parking can be crowded.

CHILD'S WISH COME TRUE
275 Main Street
Webster

(1) Long or short term individual and family befriending.

(2) Statewide "Wish Family" telephone support network.

(3) Community and group activities.

(4) Monthly support group meetings being planned in several communities.

- All services provided by volunteers, who include bereaved parents, nurses, social workers.

- Interpreters can be arranged.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Family and friends, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 943-1509 for information. Calling hours 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICE UNIT

MGH Bunker Hill Health Center
73 High Street
Charlestown

(1) Individual and family counseling.

(2) 24-hour emergency referral service.

(3) Crisis information.

- Services provided by variety of mental health professionals, trained in working with grieving people.

Affiliations: Massachusetts General Hospital.

Who is Served: Open to all, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 242-5760 for information. Calling hours 8:30 am - 6:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. 8:30 am - 8:00 pm Wednesday.

Fee: Fee charged. Sliding scale/reduced rate available. Some services covered by insurance and Medicaid.

Transportation: Buses from Haymarket and Sullivan Square, Boston. Some street parking.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Aldersgate Church
235 Park Street
North Reading

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films, tapes. Some meetings are arranged for fathers only.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Library.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents and families in Essex and Middlesex counties and the Greater Boston area.

How to Contact: Call Tom or Jean O'Hare at 664-4931 or Joan McLaughlin at 664-5194 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street
Concord

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films, tapes. Siblings are invited to meetings occasionally.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Library.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents in Central Middlesex.

How to Contact: Call Gretchen Frasier at 369-5105, Margaret Kingsbury at 897-9449, or Jackie or Howard Hardin at 263-5662 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in Post Office lot.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
St. Paul's School
147 North Street
Hingham

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, and films.

(2) Newsletter.

(3) Library.

(4) Informal get-togethers.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Family and close friends in the South Shore area.

How to Contact: Call Jean Patterson, 749-5413, for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Bus from MBTA Red line in Quincy; free parking in church/school lot.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Bay Path Nursing Home
Route 53
Duxbury

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films.

(2) Recently started siblings group. For siblings of all ages. Meets once monthly. Completely separate from parents group. Call for information.

(3) "Telephone friends" support network.

(4) Newsletter.

(5) Library.

(6) Various informal get-togethers.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents, grandparents. Separate services for siblings. Serving the Duxbury area.

How to Contact: Call Virginia McCann at 834-6879 or Anna Ducharne at 834-6705 for information.

Fee None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in nursing home lot.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Shawmut Bank
Main Street (Route 28)
Chatham

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, tapes. You are welcome to bring a friend to your first meeting.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Monomoy Community Services can link caller to group, or to a local "telephone friend", or arrange for newsletter delivery.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents and adult siblings in the Cape Cod area.

How to Contact: Call Monomoy Community Services at 945-1501 for information. Calling hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
East Falmouth Public Library
Route 28
East Falmouth

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, tapes. You are welcome to bring a friend to your first meeting.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents and adult siblings in the Upper Cape area.

How to Contact: Call Jo Waltz at 548-6696 or Bev Klink at 540-0492 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
St. Louis De France School
Buffington Street
Swansea

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films, tapes.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Library.

- Some printed materials in Spanish.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents in the Greater Fall River area.

How to Contact: Call Michael or Sandra Sousa at 823-5240 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in school lot.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
St. Mary's Church
Route 16
Holliston

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents in the Framingham, Metro-West area.

How to Contact: Call Ellen Joyce, 877-8645, for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in church lot and on street.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
First Baptist Church
Park Avenue
Worcester

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Various informal get-togethers.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents in Worcester County.

How to Contact: Call Denyse Ruggeri at 943-5233, Greg Cobb at 842-1312, or William Seaver at 476-7981 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Buses; free parking in church lot.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Basement Level)
Corner of Cross and School Streets
Gardner

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films, tapes. You are welcome to bring a friend or other supportive person in the beginning.

(2) "Telephone friends" support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Library.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents and other relatives in North Central Mass.

How to Contact: Call Elaine Rodecki at 632-5776, June Lindsten at 928-4441, or Jean Girardin at 874-5486 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in church lot.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Parish House, Grace Episcopal Church
14 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films, tapes.

(2) Newsletter.

(3) Library.

(4) Informal get-togethers.

- o "Telephone friends" can be arranged for telephone support.
- o Some Spanish-speaking members and printed materials in Spanish.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents in the Amherst, Northampton, Greenfield area.

How to Contact: Call Amy Johnson at (413) 256-8045 or Jean Joy at (413) 253-7059 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free street parking.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Mercy Hospital
Carew Street
Springfield

(1) Parent-run peer support group offering friendship, understanding, and a place to listen and share. Group activities include discussions, speakers, films. You are welcome to bring another family member or friend to your first meeting. Some meetings are arranged for mothers only or fathers only.

(2) Separate services available for siblings.

(3) "Telephone friends" support network.

(4) Newsletter.

(5) Library.

(6) Various informal get-togethers.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents and interested professionals. Separate services for siblings. Serving Western Mass.

How to Contact: Call Sandi Sisitsky, (413) 567-8705, for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in hospital lot.

THE GOOD GRIEF PROGRAM

Judge Baker Guidance Center
296 Longwood Ave.
Boston

- Helps schools and community groups become a source of support for children (preschoolers to adolescents) when a friend dies.

(1) Crisis intervention.

(2) Consultation.

(3) Staff training.

(4) Educational programs.

(5) Resource materials.

- Services provided by a professional. Trained volunteers assist with educational programs.

- Staff are willing to work with a translator if needed.

Affiliations: Judge Baker Guidance Center, Childrens Hospital, Junior League of Boston.

Who is Served: Groups of children, schools, parents, professionals, and community organizations working with groups of children. Serving all Massachusetts.

How to Contact: Call Sandra Fox, Ph. D., LICSW, at 232-8390 for information and appointments. Calling hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

Fee: Hourly fee charged. Reduced rate can be discussed.

Transportation: Depends on meeting location.

GRIEVING PERSON
Genesis Spiritual Life Center
53 Mill Street
Westfield

(1) A support group.

(2) Individual and family counseling by appointment.

- All services provided by a nun who has worked extensively with grieving people.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Spouses, family, friends. No residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call (413) 562-3627 for information, individual appointments, or to learn group meeting times. Calling hours 9:00 am - 5:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

HOSPICE VISITORS PROGRAM

Emerson Hospital
Route 2
Concord

(1) Individual or family befriending, support through the grieving process. Help in understanding grieving and building or stengthening a support network. Services provided by trained and supervised volunteers.

(2) Education - speaking engagements at schools and other community groups.

(3) Consultation with staff at institutions, such as day care centers.

- Services are available in Spanish and French. Signing and P.T.Y. machine available for the hearing impaired.

Affiliations: Emerson Hospital.

Who is Served: Open to all in towns surrounding Emerson Hospital.

How to Contact: Call 369-1400, ext. 434 for information and appointments. Ask for the Hospice Coordinator or the Bereavement Coordinator of the Hospice Program. Calling hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None. Donations accepted.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS

Visiting Nurses Association Building
54 Castle Street
Great Barrington

(1) Parent-run peer support group, facilitated by a trained Hospice of South Berkshire volunteer. Offers a place to share and listen.

(2) Telephone support network.

Affiliations: Hospice of South Berkshire.

Who is Served: Parents and other family members in the Southern Berkshire County area.

How to Contact: Call the Hospice Visiting Nurses Association at (413) 528-4786 and ask for information about the support group.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; volunteers may be able to provide rides; free parking.

SURVIVOR'S WORKSHOP

Barnstable Superior Courthouse
Route 6A
Barnstable

A peer support group led by Victim/Witness Program staff. Group activities include discussions and guest speakers.

- Portuguese speakers available.

Affiliations: Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office.

Who is Served: Open to all in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties.

How to Contact: Call the Director or Assistant Director of the Victim/Witness Program at 362-8103 for information. Calling hours 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free lot parking.

A TIME TO GRIEVE/TAPESTRY

Tapestry
20 Sacramento Street
Cambridge

(1) A Time to Grieve: A support/therapy/education group offering support through each member's individual grieving process. Two 8-12 week sessions are run each year by a social worker. If desired, members can decide to attend further 8-12 week sessions.

(2) Tapestry: Long and short-term individual and family counseling by a variety of mental health professionals and graduate students; most have worked with grieving people.

- Feminist therapy.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Adults only. Serving Greater Boston and suburbs.

How to Contact: Call 661-0248 for information and appointments. May need to leave name and telephone number; you will be called back. Calling hours 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: Fee charged, sliding scale. Some services covered by insurance.

Transportation: MBTA Red line and Mass. Ave. buses; street parking.

Miscarriage
Stillbirth
Newborn

THE BEREAVED PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Anna Jacques Hospital
25 Highland Avenue
Newburyport

A support group led by two parents, a nurse and a counselor.

Affiliations: Anna Jacques Hospital.

Who is Served: Parents and family (mid-teens and older). Serving the Newburyport area.

How to Contact: Call 462-6600, ext. 294. Leave your name and telephone number and you will be called back with information. Calling hours 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking in hospital lot.

CARING AND SHARING

Atlantic Care Medical Center
500 Lynnfield Street
Lynn

Ongoing group treatment and suppport led by a registered nurse and a social worker.

Affiliations: Atlantic Care Medical Center, Greater Lynn Community Mental Health.

Who is Served: Parents, adult family members, friends. Serving Lynn, Lynnfield, Swampscott, Saugus, Nahant.

How to Contact: Call Helen Pride, R.N. or Lenny DeBenedictis, LICSW, at 581-9200, ext. 3510.

Fee: Sliding scale fee per meeting.

Transportation: Buses; free parking in hospital lot.

HELP OTHER PARENTS ENDURE (HOPE)
Winchester Hospital
41 Highland Avenue
Winchester

(1) Peer support group run by parents, facilitated by a social worker.

(2) "Parent-to-Parent Hotline" telephone support network.

(3) Newsletter.

(4) Support also available during future pregnancies.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Open to all, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call Barbara Bryant, LICSW, at 729-9000, ext. 3103, for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free garage parking.

HELP OTHER PARENTS ENDURE (HOPE)
Norwood Hospital
800 Washington Street
Norwood

(1) Support group headed by four nurses.

(2) Long or short term individual and family support provided by staff nurses.

Affiliations: Norwood Hospital.

Who is Served: Parents in communities south of Boston.

How to Contact: Call Patricia Lang, RNC, at 769-4000 (ask operator to page her).

Fee: None.

Transportation: Commuter rail, Forest Hills - Walpole bus; charge for visitor parking.

HELP OTHER PARENTS ENDURE (HOPE)
South Shore Hospital
55 Fogg Road
South Weymouth

(1) Peer support group led by a staff nurse.

(2) 24-hour telephone consultation and referral.

(3) Parent to parent support network.

Affiliations: South Shore Hospital.

Who is Served: Parents, family members and friends. Serving the Weymouth area.

How to Contact: Call Sue Harrington, RN, at 337-7011, ext. 368 or 369 or at 335-0149 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking across from the Emergency Room.

HELP OTHER PARENTS ENDURE (HOPE)
Lawrence General Hospital
One General Street
Lawrence

(1) A peer support group facilitated by a social worker and a parent.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents in the Greater Lawrence area.

How to Contact: Call 683-4000, ext. 2550 for information. Calling hours 7:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Public transportation within Lawrence; free parking.

LET OTHERS SHARE AND SUPPORT (LOSS)
Waltham-Weston Hospital and Medical Center
20 Hope Avenue
Waltham

A support group led by staff nurses. Group activities include discussions, films.

Affiliations: Waltham-Weston Hospital and Medical Center.

Who is Served: Parents, other family members in the Waltham area.

How to Contact: Call Paulette Melanson, RN, at 647-6308 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Buses; free parking in hospital lot.

THE LOSS SUPPORT GROUP
Beverly Hospital
Herrick and Heather Streets
Beverly

(1) Parent-run peer support group, providing support, understanding, and the chance to talk or just listen.

(2) Hotline services available for group members and bereaved parents not in the group.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents; may bring other family members, friend or other supportive person to meeting. Serving the North Shore.

How to Contact: Call Louise Hunt, LICSW, at 922-3000, ext. 2710 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No convenient public transportation; free parking in hospital lot.

NEONATAL DEATH PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
John Cuming Building
Emerson Hospital
Old Road to Nine Acre Corner
Concord

A support group offering a place to share or listen. Facilitated by a social worker.

Affiliations: Emerson Hospital.

Who is Served: Parents, other family members, friends, any supportive person. No residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 369-1400, ext. 1605 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

THE NEXT STEP
Jordan Hospital
Sandwich Street
Plymouth

(1) Telephone support.

(2) Supportive meetings on an individual basis.

Affiliations: Jordan Hospital.

Who is Served: Family members, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call Ann Tougas, RN, at 837-3246, Eileen Ciccoe, RN, 837-1851 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

PARENT BEREAVEMENT GROUP
Framingham Union Hospital
115 Lincoln Street
Framingham

(1) Support group led by a staff nurse and a staff social worker. Based on the needs of the group, sessions run for ten weeks.

(2) Linking with parent support network available.

- Spanish-speaking social worker on hospital staff is available for individual counseling.

Affiliations: Framingham Union Hospital.

Who is Served: Parents, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 879-7111, ext. 2734 for information.

Fee: Fee charged. Sliding scale/reduced rate available. Some services covered by insurance.

Transportation: Public transportation within Framingham, limited public transportation coming in or out of the city; street parking can be crowded.

PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP
Worcester Memorial Hospital
119 Belmont Street
Worcester

(1) A peer support group facilitated by a nurse and social worker, offering a place to share feelings by talking or listening. Group activities include discussions and speakers.

(2) Telephone support available on request, with a hospital-trained bereaved parent.

(3) Library

Affiliations: Worcester Memorial Hospital.

Who is Served: Parents, adult family members, close friends. Serving Worcester County.

How to Contact: Call Charlene Golub, MSW, at 793-6286 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Bus service; 50¢ parking in secure hospital lot, free parking within walking distance.

PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP: FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF AN INFANT
Brigham & Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street
Boston

Counseling group led by a social worker. Offers support, discussion and education.

- Spanish-speaking social worker on staff.

Affiliations: Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Who is Served: Open to all, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call the group coordinator at 732-6462 for information. Calling hours 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: MBTA Green line "E" or "D", buses; garage and street parking.

REACH PROGRAM--MOTHERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Berkshire Medical Center
725 North Street
Pittsfield

(1) A peer support group facilitated by a staff social worker and run by core members. Comfort, sharing and understanding are offered. Group activities include presentations, guest speakers, discussions.

(2) Individual supportive contact with a core member in person or by telephone is available on request.

Affiliations: Berkshire Medical Center.

Who is Served: Mothers in Berkshire County.

How to Contact: Call Aileen Drecher at (413) 499-4161, Beeper 252, for information. Calling hours 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Limited bus service; free parking in hospital lot.

REACH PROGRAM--PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP

Berkshire Medical Center
725 North Street
Pittsfield

(1) A peer support group facilitated by a staff social worker and run by core members. Comfort, sharing and understanding are offered. Group activities include presentations, guest speakers, discussions.

(2) Individual supportive contact with a core member in person or by telephone is available on request.

Affiliations: Berkshire Medical Center.

Who is Served: Parents, other family members, friends. Serving Berkshire County.

How to Contact: Call Aileen Drecher at (413) 499-4161, Beeper 252, for information. Calling hours 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Limited bus service; free parking in hospital lot.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Vernon Medical Center
10 Winthrop Street
Worcester

(1) A peer support group facilitated by a St. Vincent Hospital nurse and social worker, dealing with issues such as future pregnancy, changes in relationships with spouse or partner, children, co-workers. Group activities include discussions and speakers.

(2) Telephone support available on request, with a hospital-trained bereaved parent.

(3) Library.

Affiliations: St. Vincent Hospital, Childbirth Education Association.

Who is Served: Mothers, women friends. Serving the Greater Worcester area.

How to Contact: Call Claudia Neithercut at 798-6101 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Bus service; 50¢ parking in secure St. Vincent Hospital lot, free parking within walking distance.

Suicide

SAFE PLACE/OMEGA
Somerville-Cambridge Catholic Charities
270 Washington Street
Somerville

(1) Safe Place: A self-help peer support group offering a safe place to express sadness, anger, fear, loneliness, guilt or regret. Facilitated by trained Omega volunteers or staff.

(2) Omega: Individual and telephone support available.

- One Spanish speaker.

Affiliations: Catholic Charities, United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 776-6369 or 625-1920 ext. 51 for information. Calling hours 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Buses from MBTA Red and Green lines; street parking.

SAFE PLACE/SAMARITANS
Chamber of Commerce Building
Academy Lane
Falmouth

(1) Safe Place: A support group offering a chance to talk, listen, share and grieve.

(2) Samaritans: Individual befriending.

(3) 24-hour hotline.

- Services provided by trained volunteers.
- Interpreter services may be possible for individual befriending.
- P.T.Y. machine available for the hearing impaired.

Affiliations: United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all in the Plymouth area and Cape Cod.

How to Contact: Call 759-2228, 548-8900, 548-8901, 771-7770, or 255-1888 for information. Walk in for individual contact. Samaritans walk-in hours 8:30 am-9:00 pm daily.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation; free parking.

SAFE PLACE/SAMARITANS
55 Jackson Street
Lawrence
(Safe Place group meets at St. Robert Bellarmine Church Rectory, Haggets Pond Road, Andover)

(1) Safe Place: A support group offering a chance to talk, listen, share and grieve.

(2) Samaritans: Individual befriending.

(3) 24-hour hotline.

- Services provided by trained volunteers.

- Hope to be able to provide services in Spanish.

Affiliations: United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all in the Merrimack Valley area.

How to Contact: Call 668-6607, 452-6733, or 372-7200 for information, individual appointments, or to join Safe Place group. Samaritans hours 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No public transportation to Andover, bus service in Lawrence. Free parking in both.

SAFE PLACE/SAMARITANS
Grace Congregational Church
73 Union Avenue
Framingham

(1) Safe Place: A support group offering a chance to talk, listen, share and grieve.

(2) Samaritans: Individual befriending.

(3) 24-hour hotline.

- Services provided by trained volunteers.

Affiliations: United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all in the Central Middlesex area.

How to Contact: Call 875-4500 (24-hour hotline) in advance for individual meetings or for information about the group.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No convenient public transportation; free parking.

SAMARITANS
500 Commonwealth Avenue
(Kenmore Square)
Boston

(1) Individual or family befriending.

(2) 24-hour hotline.

- Services provided by selected and trained volunteers.
- Non-English services can probably be arranged for a variety of languages.

Affiliations: United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all in the Greater Boston area.

How to Contact: Call 247-0220 (24-hour hotline) or just come in to office. Office hours 8:00 am-8:00 pm daily.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Buses and MBTA Green line; poor parking, pay lot behind building.

SAMARITANS
386 Stanley Street
Fall River

(1) Individual befriending.

(2) 24-hour hotline.

- Services provided by trained volunteers.
- Services available in Portuguese.
- Hope to start Safe Place support group.

Affiliations: United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all. Serving the New Bedford, Acushnet, Westport, Dartmouth, Fairhaven area.

How to Contact: Call 636-6111 or 636-6112 for information and appointments. Individual befriending by appointment only.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Bus service, free parking.

SUICIDE SURVIVOR PROGRAM
100 North Street
Pittsfield

(1) A weekly support group facilitated by volunteers. Three 8-week sessions are offered yearly.

(2) Individual and family emotional support.

(3) Telephone support and referral.

Affiliations: Hospice of Central Berkshire.

Who is Served: Open to all in Central Berkshire County.

How to Contact: Call (413) 443-2994 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

Accident

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)
10 High Street
Suite 3
Medford

(1) Monthly group meetings.

(2) Literature mailed on request.

(3) Telephone support available.

(4) Advice, i.e., on the court process.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Open to all in the Greater Boston area.

How to Contact: Call 391-6233 for information. Calling hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Fee: Donations accepted.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)
P.O. Box 162
Halifax

(1) Public meetings with guest speakers four times yearly.

(2) Monthly executive meetings to discuss organizational and current issues. All welcome.

(3) Speaking engagements at schools and other groups.

(4) Telephone support and advice for dealing with the court process.

(5) Literature.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Open to all in Plymouth County.

How to Contact: Call the Chapter President at 293-3506 or Richard Shire at 293-2583 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)
Rutland Heights Hospital
Maple Avenue
Rutland

(1) Public meetings with guest speakers four times yearly.

(2) Monthly executive meetings.

(3) Speakers Bureau - presentations to schools and other groups.

(4) Telephone support and advice available.

(5) Victim-support literature.

- Plan to have a bereavement group for accident victims and their families.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Family, friends, injured victims. Serving Central Massachusetts.

How to Contact: Call Kay Dudley at 829-4001 or Paul Deignan at 727-1910, ext. 185 for information.

Fee: Dues for members. Do not have to be a member to participate in activities.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)
P.O. Box 192
Dalton
(Support Group: Grace Congregational Church, Pittsfield)

(1) A monthly peer support group. Most meetings facilitated by social worker and/or hospice worker.

(2) Monthly business meetings to discuss organizational issues, listen to speakers, etc. Open to all.

(3) Advice and support available for dealing with the court process.

(4) Literature.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Family, friends, injured victims. Serving Berkshire County.

How to Contact: Call Donna Kelley, Chapter President, at (413) 684-0341 or write MADD, P.O. Box 192, Dalton, MA 01226.

Fee: Optional yearly membership fee.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

Homicide

EMPATHY/OMEGA

Somerville-Cambridge Catholic Charities
270 Washington Street
Somerville

(1) Empathy: A self-help peer support group offering a safe place to express sadness, anger, fear, loneliness, guilt or regret. Facilitated by trained Omega volunteers or staff.

(2) Omega: Individual and telephone support available.

- Printed material.
- One Spanish speaker.

Affiliations: Catholic Charities, United Way.

Who is Served: Open to all, no residence requirement.

How to Contact: Call 776-6369 or 625-1920 ext. 51 for information. Calling hours 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Buses from MBTA Red and Green lines; street parking.

PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN

154 Canterbury Road
Springfield

(1) A parent-run peer support group.

(2) Telephone support.

(3) Information and advice concerning the criminal justice system.

- A professional group facilitator is being sought.

Affiliations: None.

Who is Served: Parents, other family members. Serving Western Massachusetts.

How to Contact: Call Ruth Mathieu at (413) 783-4326 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Bus service within Springfield; free street parking.

Homicide
Accident

CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER

Project RAP
9 Highland Avenue
Beverly

(1) Counseling and support for individuals and families in crisis.

(2) Information and referral.

(3) 24-hour hotline.

(4) Mobile crisis team available when Center is closed.

- Services provided by social workers and trained and supervised volunteers.

Affiliations: United Way, Department of Social Services, Department of Youth Services.

Who is Served: Open to all on the North Shore.

How to Contact: Call 927-4506 for information, or 922-0000 (24-hour hotline).

Fee: None for crisis services; sliding scale for long-term counseling.

Transportation: Cabot Street buses; near commuter rail. Limited free parking.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME
Boston City Hospital
818 Harrison Avenue
Boston

(1) Support group offering friendship and understanding and a safe place to express feelings.

(2) Individual/family counseling.

(3) Referral to parent-to-parent contact.

(4) 24-hour hotline for consultation and referral.

(5) Educational materials and presentations.

(6) Autopsies and interpretation of autopsy results.

- Services provided by community health nurses, clergy.
- Printed materials in a number of languages.
- Interpreters can be arranged for individual/family counseling.
- Full range of services available statewide. Call for individual/family appointments, and dates, times, locations of group meetings.

Affiliations: Department of Public Health.

Who is Served: Family, friends. Serving all Massachusetts.

How to Contact: Call 424-5742 (24 hours) for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: Depends on location of meeting.

SIDS PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR SIDS

Bay State Medical Center
759 Chestnut Street
Springfield

Support group offering emotional support and information. You are welcome to bring a friend or other supportive person.

- Group is facilitated by nurses and a minister.
- Facilitators provided by the Massachusetts Center for SIDS.

Affiliations: Massachusetts Center for SIDS.

Who is Served: Families in Western Massachusetts.

How to Contact: Call Penny Begley at (413) 783-7459 or Marcia Kelly at (413) 256-1063 for information.

Fee: None.

Transportation: No convenient public transportation; free parking.

Information and Referral

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

The following organizations should be able to provide current information about a variety of services, including changes in ongoing programs and new programs starting up.

Candle Lighters Childhood Cancer Foundation
- (202) 659-5136

Compassionate Friends (Jean O'Hare, Regional Coordinator)
- (617) 664-4931

Coping with Overall Pregnancy Experience (COPE)
- (617) 357-5588

Genetics Program, Mass. Department of Public Health
- (617) 727-5121

Massachusetts Center for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- (617) 424-5742

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
- (617) 727-5200

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD - National Office)
669 Airport Freeway, Suite 310,
Hurst, Texas 76053
- (817) 268-6233

Parents of Murdered Children (National Office)
- (513) 242-8025

Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID)
(National) P.O. Box 520, Schenectady, New York 12301
(State) P.O. Box 273, Northampton, MA 01061

Source of Help in Airing and Resolving Experiences (SHARE)
- (217) 544-6464

Social Work Information and Referral
- (617) 720-2828

United Way Information and Referral
- (617) 482-1454

Victim/Witness Programs by County

Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket Counties
- (617) 362-8103

Berkshire County
- (413) 443-5951

Bristol County
- (617) 997-0711, ext. 47

Essex County - (617) 745-6610

Hampden County - (413) 781-8100, ext. 2026

Hampshire/Franklin Counties - (413) 586-5780

Middlesex County - (617) 494-4604

Norfolk County - (617) 329-5440

Plymouth County - (617) 584-8120

Suffolk County - (617) 725-8600

Worcester County - (617) 757-2786

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